**Specific Comments:**

I agree with most of Odd's comments but have some observations on the following questions:

*Are there other safety and environmental management systems or programs that MMS should review? Please provide as much detail as possible.*

I strongly agree with Odd that IADC HSE Case Guidelines provide an excellent example of the 'process' of 'preparation – documentation –implementation'.

*Should MMS or a third party verify that a performance-based safety and environmental management program is working? Should audits be periodic or should they be triggered by events or indicators?*

Agree with Odd but I would recommend the operator be required to carry out his own audits and to employ 3$^{rd}$ party verifiers rather than MMS employing 3$^{rd}$ party verifiers. MMS can then monitor the process and even require their agreement to the scope of any 3$^{rd}$ party audit. This will aid and check 'independence'. This could then be supplemented by MMS carrying out its own risk based audits and 'auditing the auditor'. This would be a more appropriate use of scarce MMS resources.

*Should MMS review the SEMS plan, review and approve the SEMS plan, or have an independent third party verify, review, and approve the SEMS plan?*

I believe this is the responsibility of the regulator but it is a tricky area. Some would say that 'approval' or 'acceptance' by the regulator makes them part of the process and hence liable in the event of an incident. My experience is that the operator may prevaricate and even ignore the input of the regulator unless the regulator has the power to 'reject' the document. Also the operator and the regulator may become disillusioned with the whole process and the thing goes to ratchet.

*Should SEMS plans be in addition to the current prescriptive regulations or should the SEMS plan be in lieu of certain prescriptive regulations?*

It can be a mix and match, but the amount of prescription should be reduced to the bare minimum otherwise the SEMS approach loses its impact. It is common for occupational health e.g., noise, fume, fatigue standards to be called up in regulation.